



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012

No. 41

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God, we praise You that none of Your purposes can be thwarted. You have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Continue to guide our lawmakers along right paths. May they find fullness of joy in Your presence and pleasure forevermore at Your right hand. Today, equip them with what they need to do Your will, working in them that which is pleasing in Your sight. Help them to live today with a sense of accountability to You, understanding that their thoughts, words, and actions are open to Your review.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 13, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1813, the surface transportation act. There will be two rollcall votes in relation to the DeMint and Bingaman amendments at noon. The Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m. there could be as many as 20 rollcall votes this afternoon to complete action on the Transportation bill.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3606 AND S. 2186

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

A bill (S. 2186) to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to prohibit the Attorney General from administering or enforcing certain accessibility regulations relating to pools at public accommodations or provided by public entities.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings regarding these two bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we resume consideration of the most important piece of jobs legislation we have had here in a long time; that is, the highway bill. But it is more than a highway bill, it is a surface transportation bill that deals with all aspects of helping our failing bridges, and there are 70,000 of those. Twenty percent of our highways are in nonsafe conditions. We have problems with our mass transportation system, rails, and other such things, so we have to move forward.

Building this Nation's infrastructure with this legislation alone will save or create 2.8 million jobs. This is an effort to build a world-class transportation system that was started during the Presidency of Dwight Eisenhower. Every President since then has recognized the need to go forward with the vision General Eisenhower had. We must renew that commitment. The Presidents in recent years have gone out of their way to do that. President Reagan gave a number of speeches about how important it was that we begin to renew the commitment we should have to infrastructure in this country. President Clinton did the same.

The legislation is very important, and a commitment to the renewal of a vision of General Eisenhower is the essence of this bipartisan bill. It has the endorsement of one of the most conservative Members of the Senate and one of the most liberal Members of the Senate. I was disappointed that it took as long as it did to get where we are, but we are here. We invoked cloture quite a long time ago, and it has taken

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1583